

## FOR MOTHERS TO PONDER.

BY ONE OF THEM.

It is generally without thought, seldom with attention to inflict pain, that children's misdemeanors are kept fresh in their memories when they might be forgotten. But that it is sometimes done, even by parents, no careful observer can doubt. It is none the less real that the harm thereby done, to the child is unrealized.

A hard sullenness is engendered in some natures by this mistake, an unhealthy tendency to brood over their own failures, and a sense of discouragement as to their future comes to others.

Forgiveness which does not forget, nor allow the offender to forget, is of small value. It brings no peace. It will be prized lightly, and slowly sought, by any keen witted child. "Let bygones be bygones" is a maxim won from the wisdom of the ages. What need to probe a well-healed wound? If the discipline which follows a child's offence is wise, and his own repentance is sincere, the lesson has entered into his life. That is enough. He has taken a step forward, but it was by a rough, hard road. Let him forget the path as far as he can. Do not keep vivid before his mind the thought that he has been naughty, and therefore, can be again. He will soon begin to feel that he is rather expected to be so, and he will be prompt to fulfill the expectation. Your child will find out soon enough that he is one of a race of "poor, miserable sinners," without taking care to emblazon the fact upon the walls of his inner consciousness. Make him feel that rectitude is expected to be the rule of his life; that lapses from it are not to be tolerated, only as to expectations which shall prove to him the beneficence of the rule. Their lesson learned, they are to be cast behind his back—and yours.

## THE THEATRE AND CARD-PLAYING.

Is it not true that on the whole, the theatre as an institution is injurious to morals? is it not compelled to draw its attractions, if not from absolute vice, at least from a border-land that lies very near to it? Is not the character of the men and women who do its work such, as a class, that we are scarcely shocked at the roughest scandals in their private life, but

regard them almost as a matter of course? This being the fact beyond dispute, can you afford by your money or your example to help sustain such an institution?

The same argument holds good again at card-playing. The card party in the private parlor may be but a harmless evening diversion to the young lady who gives it, an innocent refuge for the emptiness and stupidity which cannot converse because it will not take the trouble to think, but to some of her guests be fatal food for a passion which grows to an insanity not second to the appetite for strong drink, and which its victim will gratify at any cost. The whole interest of a game of cards, in the parlor or the saloon, turns upon the chance involved, whether it be the mere delight of winning or the more substantial stake, and what essential difference is there between playing for five dollars in a saloon and playing in a parlor for the prize bought with the five dollars? Do you say a difference in the demoralizing surroundings? But the passion acquired and encouraged in the one place has led many a young man to the other.

—Golden Rule.

## HAVE YOU A BOY TO SPARE.

The saloon must have boys, or it must shut up shop. Can't you furnish it one? it is a great factory, and unless it can get about 2,000,000 boys from each generation for raw material, some of these factories must close out and its operatives must be thrown on a cold world, and the public revenue will dwindle. "Wanted—2,000,000 boys," is the notice. One family out of every five must contribute a boy to keep up the supply. Will you help? which of your boys will it be? The minotaur of Crete had to have a trireme full of fair maidens each year; but the minotaur of America demands a city-full of boys each year. Are you a father? Have you given your share to keep up the supply for this great public institution that is helping to pay your taxes and kindly electing public officials for you? Have you contributed a boy? If not, some other family has had to give more than its share. Are you not selfish, voting to keep the saloon open to grind up boys, and then doing nothing to keep up the supply?—P. P.